

# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## CONFERENCE OFFICE RELOCATES

The Southeast Conference Office is now housed in new office space in the basement of Central Congregational Church, 2676 Clairmont Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. The office telephone number (404-633-5655) and the mailing address (P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329) remain the same.

The stone house on Central Church property, where the offices were formerly located, now houses the family of the caretaker, Mr. Tom Brooks, and a Vietnamese couple, Nam and Quiew.

## Charismatic Renewal Booklet Available

"THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH" has been prepared by the Office for Church Life and Leadership in response to the action of the Ninth General Synod, and a copy sent to each church.

This pastoral message on the charismatic renewal movement includes implications for the United Church of Christ, testimonials from persons within the United Church of Christ with charismatic experience and an annotated bibliography. Helpful study aids for groups or personal reflection include guidelines for dialogue and growth, discussion starters and passages for Bible study. Copies are available for 25c from Church Leadership Resources, Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166.

LOCAL CHURCHES SHOULD NOW BE USING WITH HEART, WITH MIND, the booklet describing Family Thank Offering projects and/or monthly bulletin inserts with the same information.

The booklet and inserts contain prayers and a dedication service written by members of the United Church of Christ, both lay and clergy.

Copies of the booklet and monthly bulletin inserts are available free from Church Leadership Resources, Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166. Family Thank Offering envelopes (1c each), boxes (5c ea.) and labels for cans (3c ea.) are also

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## To The Churches Of Southeast Conference From The Task Force On Evangelism — A Message

The beginning of Lent is upon us. Lent is that time in the Church year when we look with anticipation to the dawn of Easter. It was at that first Easter dawn that Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, shined forth to the world in ultimate victory over sin and death. If you are a person already turned to the Light, Jesus Christ, we invite you to covenant with the Lord to pray every Sunday, upon arising from sleep, for renewal in the life of our churches in the Southeast Conference. Pray that the Holy Spirit revive us into action for Him. As you pray, God will answer and we will see our churches doing EVANGELISM in word and deed. The first Sunday in Lent is March 7.

Dr. Gabriel Fackre, a leading theologian in our United Church of Christ, describes the process of EVANGELISM in a symbolic story called "Dawn People." The symbolism is about people dancing around a campfire joyfully celebrating the warmth of God's love. The circle then breaks and the dancers turn their backs on the Light and warmth of God's love, moving out into the darkness. In the story, the fire dies down, the dancers are out in the darkness and suddenly a spark lights up the campfire. The Light becomes incarnate in Jesus Christ. Though the powers of darkness try to destroy Him, Christ overcomes them and the dawn of Easter brings the dawn of everlasting love. This is the message of the Gospel. EVANGELISM is the task of getting that message out to all people. This is done in many ways. We must, in our churches and as individuals demonstrate that we are Dawn People, for we have turned to the living Lord and by His grace our lives are enriched and can be full.

But — "the dawn of hope is not yet the high noon of God's kingdom come on earth. People still wander in darkness and loneliness. But some people feel the warmth of God's love and turn from darkness to light. As they walk toward the Light, they reach out to others." (The

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## HUNGER HURTS!

Help Heal Through  
One Great Hour



March 28, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day when most congregations of the United Church of Christ concentrate their annual giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering. THE OGHS appeal focuses attention on the emergency and long-term needs of people overseas.

Flood and drought both hurt, but you can help to heal through ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Ever since the river Tel in the State of Orissa, India, flooded and deposited sand in low-lying fields for a stretch of more than twenty-five miles along its bank, the families who lived there and worked the fields have had to find work elsewhere. They were made virtually landless. Even though they still own the land, they cannot possibly use it now. This is one place in the world where hunger really hurts.

However, the Rural Life Program of the Church of North India proposed a way whereby the sand could be removed from the fields in a food for work program. Through this program, over 385 acres of

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## PERSONALS

Rev. William Tuttle, father of Rev. Henry W. Tuttle of Birmingham, Ala., suffered a heart attack recently and has been hospitalized near his home in Avon Park, Florida.

Rev. Clarence Baldwin, former pastor of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, recently underwent surgery for a circulatory disorder. His address: 5004 Rockville Rd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46224.

Mr. Albert Leon Galloway, Sr., a member of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Charleston, S.C., died on January 5, 1976. For many years he served as Chairman of the Trustee Board and was active in the life of the church and of the Ga.-S.C. Association. Mr. Galloway was known for his dedication to helping others.

Mrs. Clara Lewis, a member of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., died Feb. 22. She was active in the camping program of Ga.-S.C. Association. She and her family have been faithful members of the church both in Atlanta and Greensboro, N.C.

Rev. Frederick Meyer, retired pastor of Central Church, Atlanta, was the preacher at the 50th Anniversary Service of Rockville Center, Long Island, N.Y., on February 1st. Mr. Meyer served as pastor of that church for fifteen years from 1936 to 1951. During his pastorate there the membership grew from 550 to 1200, the sanctuary building was erected and the Parish Hall renovated. Mrs. Meyer shared in the Anniversary Celebration. Before returning to Atlanta the Meyers visited friends in Westfield, N.J., where they had served an interim pastorate in 1974.

Brooklawn Children's Home, 2125 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, Ky., 40218, is in need of several items for the use of children in their care. They are asking churches of the Southeast Conference to help provide: soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant. Please contact their Development Office at the above address.

## 1776 Giving In 1975

By the end of 1975, churches in the Southeast Conference had pledged goals totalling \$68,094 to the 1776 Achievement Fund. Cash received in Southeast Conference Office toward these goals amounted to \$24,830.

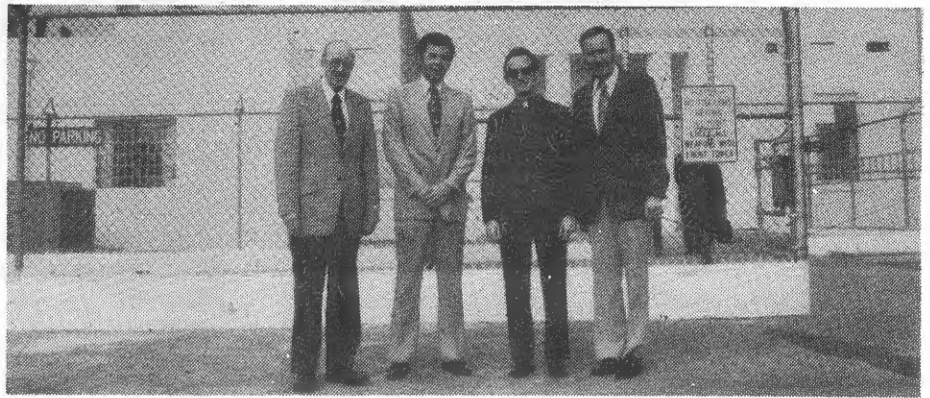
Several small churches are out-performing and out-giving some of the larger churches.

Total goals originally set by churches reached a total of \$113,500. Not all of these goals have been pledged yet.

Churches are to collect the money for 1776 Fund, keep records of individual gifts, and forward gifts to the Southeast Conference, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

Stephen C. Gray, Chairman

## Interchurch Association Visits Prison



(Members of the Georgia Interchurch Association, Inc., pause for a photograph before entering the gates at Reidsville State Prison, Ga., for a day-long examination of facilities. (L to R) Dr. William J. Andes, Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference, Atlanta; Dr. Allen L. Ault, Commissioner of the Dept. of Corrections/Offender Rehabilitation; The Most Reverend Raymond W. Lessard, President of the Georgia Interchurch Association; and Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, Jonesboro.)

It was a grey foggy day that sort of matched the inner cheerlessness of the State Prison at Reidsville, Ga., that was the occasion of a visit of the Executive Board and a Criminal Justice and Penal Reform Task Force of the Georgia Interchurch Association to Georgia's oldest and largest prison in South Georgia on January 13, 1976.

The purposes of the visit were to view conditions in Georgia's maximum security prison, to have dialogue with Dr. Allen L. Ault, and to learn how the churches of Georgia can better relate to the state penal system and the rehabilitation of offenders.

In Dr. Ault's address to the group of 24 church representatives he reminded the group that 3,000 of the 11,500 prisoners in the state penal system are at Reidsville. At the present rate of growth of the prison population in Georgia, he forecasted the need for facilities for 15,000 inmates in the total system by 1980. He shared the fact that Georgia has the highest rate of prison occupancy of any state in the nation. One-third of the prisoners are mentally retarded and read on a fifth grade level. One-third of the inmates at Reidsville are imprisoned because of violent crimes.

"The concept that these prisoners are sick is a phony one," Dr. Ault related. "They have, for the most part, adapted to the environment of which they were a part."

Dr. Ault deplored the fact that the return rate of prisoners in Georgia is 53 percent and called on the churches to assist

government in the rehabilitation and acceptance of ex-offenders as they are released from prison.

He asked the churches of Georgia to aid the Department of Corrections by supporting needed legislation in regard to earned releases of prisoners, increased appropriations for the penal system, and uniform sentencing throughout the state.

## 1975 GIVING TO O C W M

January 9, 1976, the financial books of the Southeast Conference closed and the record of the churches' giving to the Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission was history: a total of \$64,366.82 to OCWM in 1975 as compared to \$65,883.19 in 1974.

A week later, January 16, 1976, several churches had sent additional OCWM gifts totaling \$2300 for 1975, but it was too late to count on 1975 giving. If these churches had observed the deadline as requested, we could have gone nearly \$800 beyond the 1975 giving, instead of being \$1515 short!

## HUNGER HURTS

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land have been cleared and 408 farmers from 17 villages have benefitted. The cultivation of their fields has been restored. In order to make sure that the floods will not happen again, two check-dams have been built and six irrigation and drainage channels have been constructed.

For the price of what one ordinary American family pays for its food in one month (approximately \$150), you have helped to heal by providing each Indian family in this area with the resources for raising its own food for many years to come.

This is but one example of the many ways you help to heal the hurts of people in over forty countries around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing. Hunger hurts! Help heal — give generously.

## THANK GOD FOR THE MIRACLE

On August 6, 1975, George Fidler, Jr. was almost killed in a motorcycle-automobile collision. Through the Grace of God and the skill of highly competent Medical personnel and the loving concern of family and friends, he recovered consciousness and began the long, painful, often discouraging road to normalcy. He has about reached that plateau and we thank God for His miracle today.

George was unconscious for 21 days in Knoxville Hospital and intensive care for about six weeks in all, and then in Birmingham's Spain Rehabilitation Center for about three weeks. He was back to work part time after only about ten weeks. He works for Tennessee Valley Authority. One of our ladies expressed our feelings at 6:00 a.m. Christmas morning when she saw George walk into Church and she said, "There comes our miracle." We agree. **THANK GOD FOR THE MIRACLE!**

Bulletin, St. John's Church  
Cullman, Ala.

## Anniversary Celebrations

The following churches should be celebrating 25th year anniversaries in 1977:

Georgia-Barnesville, Fredonia	125th
Alabama-Alexander City, Antioch	125th
Five Points, State Line	125th
Georgia-Tifton, 1st	25th

## MESSAGE

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quotation is from the Evangelism brochure "Dawn People.")

Be one of the Dawn People in action by covenanting to pray at dawn or upon arising each Sunday morning beginning in Lent.

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## From The Minister's Annual Report, Pilgrim Church, Ghattanooga

It hardly seems possible that I am making my Fourth Annual Report. Important events of the year have included our surmounting the prodigious task of hosting the annual meeting last spring of the Southeast Conference. Thanks to all who made it one of the most warmly-welcomed Conference meetings of recent years.

Other major events of the year included the 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign; the Thanksgiving party, service, and TV program; a fall series of sermons on Liberal Christianity; the spring SEARCH classes, taught interdenominationally for youth; and the Glenwood Labor Day Festival. Perhaps the special moment for me was the day when Arnold Slater confirmed his grandson and I confirmed my oldest daughter.

During this past year we have received into membership thirteen persons by transfer, confession, confirmation, and baptism. In addition to the four young people I baptized, I have also baptized one child of members. During the year there were twelve funerals of church members, ten of which I conducted. This was a great grief to me and to our church as well as to the families of those we lost. It was a joy, however, to double the number of weddings, from three the previous year to six this year.

Now, let us turn our attention to the coming year, listing ten major objectives for our year's program:

1. An increased sense of our unity as a church family, a unity and identity growing out of an awakened sense of that which calls and claims our lives through faith in "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. The achievement of a richer spiritual life not based on pious cliches, but upon exposure to the greatness and openness of the Spirit.

3. An equal emphasis upon the fruits of that life in paths of action and service. I suggest that the Social Action Committee consider organizing itself along such lines as the following:

a. A subcommittee or person to represent the church at Glenwood Neighborhood Association,

b. A similar assignment for liaison with community-wide action groups, and liaison with our national Center for Social Action.

4. A strong stress upon the importance of Christian Education in our church, both to teach our Christian heritage and to help our children and ourselves determine the

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## What The Federated Church Of Demorest, Ga., Has To Offer

What does the Federated Church have to offer?

Our church does not offer an expanded program of activities. It has very few young people and still fewer children. It does not have revivals, and the utterance of an "Amen" during the service would probably weaken the foundations of the building. The minister's sermons are seldom fiery, and tend to convey a certain rational coolness.

However, while it is quite true that our church does not, and perhaps cannot, offer many good things which other churches in the area do offer, our church does have some very fine and rather unique selling points.

First, our church is an ecumenical fellowship. In its membership and constituency are persons of many denominational backgrounds. It would not be possible for a church to be any more free of sectarianism.

Second, freedom of the pulpit and intellectual integrity characterize the tradition of our church. Our people feel free to disagree openly with the minister's sermons, without generating an atmosphere of antagonism.

Third, in our church, the intelligent application of Christian discipleship takes priority over theological differences. Liberal and conservative join hands in dedicated service.

Finally, our people have always had better things to do than "squabble." Our people don't always agree during the process of decision-making, but, in a spirit of love, they always come to a decision that everybody can live with. It seems to me that we have some pretty great reasons for inviting others to come to our church and to join in our fellowship.

John H. Bridges  
Pastor

## Rowland's Son In Accident

On February 4, 1976, James Rowland, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Rowland, was in an automobile-motorcycle accident in Atlanta. His neck was broken and he was paralyzed from his neck down. After 2½ weeks in Intensive Care, he is now in a private room in DeKalb General Hospital. Some feeling has returned to fingers and arms, although he is still in serious condition.

His father is the Administrative Assistant in the Southeast Conference Office, and is in his senior year at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta.



## SOILS AND SOULS

(Sermon (condensed) delivered by Collie Seymour in First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tenn., May 4, 1975, in observance of Soil Stewardship Week. This sermon placed third in the 1975 Soil Stewardship Sermon Awards sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts.)

Today is Rural Life Sunday and the beginning of Soil Stewardship Week. Rural Life Sunday has its roots in the old Rogation Days. It is a day set apart for emphasizing the spiritual values for rural life, and for the invocation of God's blessing upon the seed, the soil and those who cultivate the earth.

Soil is fundamental and primary in the lives of human beings. It is essential to all our activity. Land is a great reservoir of strength in our nation. It is the basis of life itself; the foundation on which civilization, a good life and a good society can be built. Land is the fundamental source of food fiber and fuel. Like the legendary giant, Antaeus, whose strength was renewed every time he touched the earth, so also our strength must come from the wisest, fullest, and best use of our land.

When God created the earth, he looked upon it and "Saw that it was good." The earth was entrusted to man for his home; he was to dress it and keep it, not exploit it. Stewards of the land owe sacred duties and obligations to God, the community and humanity. But we have not always properly regarded the soil. We have cultivated it, mined it, eroded it, and abandoned it; but let us be reminded that if we misuse and abuse the soil we are responsible to God. Soil conservation is better in our country than in some other places; and I think we can take justifiable pride in our community for our good land and good farming practices that we have kept the land in a state of good productiveness.

Good soil stewardship and good farming practices have a dollars and cents value. When the use and care of the land does not return profits to the farmer, he cannot buy goods and products made in city industries, sold in city stores. The welfare of the factory worker, the banker, the store-keeper, the business man, in fact, every town dweller, cannot be separated from the welfare of farm people. Good soil generally means good communities, so we must look to the maintaining of our soil.

W.C. Lowdermilk, while he was Chief of the Division of Research of the Soil Conservation Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture, visited many scenes of desolation around the world. He

said, if Moses could have looked down the years and observed the wastage of land in many places, he would have been inspired to write an Eleventh Commandment, on man's responsibility to Mother Earth: "Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safe-guard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth."

The purpose of conservation and land use is not merely the production of food, fiber, substance, etc. The great store of land and natural resources which God has placed at our disposal is meant to enrich life with beauty, inspiration and recreation of spirit.

There may be some who will say, the mission of the church is to evangelize and minister to the spiritual needs of people. That is true, but it is only a part of the mission of the church.

We are stewards, servants of God and fellow laborers in the use of the resources He has created and provided for us.

### MINISTER'S REPORT

[From Page 1]

values by which we will live.

5. Emphasize our youth program.
6. Our fellowship groups take on new life through restructuring and rethinking.
7. In this bicentennial year, bring our own local church history up to date and also find the appropriate forum in which to reconsider and rewrite our church covenant, that statement by which we became members of this church.
8. We need to emphasize outreach to the community, both in witness and in recruitment.
9. We need to strengthen our ties with the larger United Church fellowship, not to develop "church patriotism", but because, like men, no church lives to itself.
10. Continue our long-range planning.

It is said that the best attitude is to keep one's nose to the grindstone and one's ears to the ground on both sides. Difficult perhaps, but this year, while we work well, let us also listen well to one another, and to the leading of God.

David Beebe, Minister

## Georgia Legislative Seminar Aimed At Churchmen



TAKING PART in the churchmen's Legislative Seminar were Speaker of the House of Representatives Tom Murphy [L], Cheatham E. Hodges Jr., exec. secretary of the Georgia Catholic Conference, and Lieutenant Governor Zell Miller.]

In an effort to acquaint churchmen of the state with the intricacies of the various departments of Georgia Government, the Georgia Interchurch Association sponsored a day-long Churchmen's Legislative Seminar in Atlanta, Jan. 7, 1976.

Approximately seventy persons representing different religious groups attended the seminar at Central Presbyterian Church. Edward M. Brown and William J. Andes attended from the United Church of Christ.

Cheatham E. Hodges, Jr., of Augusta, Executive Secretary of the Georgia Catholic Conference, served as Legislative Task Force Chairman for the Georgia Interchurch Association and organized the seminar.

"What we attempted to do," Hodges said, "was to show that government really is of the people and to develop better understanding by the heads of various church groups and their advisors of how the government works."

### BOOKLET AVAILABLE

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available.

The prayers for January, May, July and August were written by members of the Southeast Conference:

January — Marvin C. Brand, Jr., Andalusia, Ala.

May — James R. Fields, Charleston, S.C.

July — Janie Teal, Clio, Alabama.

August — Emilie Pitcock, Atlanta, Ga.